

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING FIBER OPTIC LINES TO AN INFORMATION TRANSMISSION LINE CARRYING TWO WAY SIGNALS

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to a method and apparatus for injecting external synchronizing signals and control signals into a fiber optic transmission line, carrying information signals propagated from a remotely located transmitter, for feeding the injected signals to the transmitter in the reverse direction to the information signal propagation, through the same fiber optic transmission line.

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2. Description Of The Prior Art

In a closed circuit television system used as an information transmission system, a television camera or a plurality of cameras are connected through a single or multiple transmission lines to a monitoring station. Such television cameras may incorporate remotely controlled repositioning devices for the camera's pan, tilt or its zoom lens. The cameras may also provide other remotely controlled functions such as wiper, washer, heater and illuminator and have various circuits that are remotely set by a control commands generated from the monitoring station.

Some of the remote controlling methods for various camera functions employ AC or DC controls through multi

control cables; others employ digital command codes transmitted via twisted pair wires or fiber optics cable. Yet, other methods for transmitting control command codes to a television camera via the video coaxial cable that carries 5 the information signals are disclosed in U.S. patents 4,989,085; 5,335,014 and 5,579,060, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

When a plurality of television cameras are connected to a monitoring station via a plurality of transmission lines 10 the transmission lines are connected to a switcher for selectively displaying a camera on a television monitor.

When a closed circuit television system does not employ external synchronization for its television cameras the selected images displayed on the monitor are often disturbed 15 during and immediately after the switching-over from one television camera to another. Therefore, it is preferable to externally synchronize all the cameras of such a system in order to ensure a flawless switchover from one camera to another, with no disturbance of the displayed picture during 20 and immediately after the switchover.

As one of the devices for synchronizing a plurality of television cameras, there is a well known apparatus for transmitting a vertical synchronizing signal and a horizontal synchronizing signal or a composite synchronizing 25 signal used in a television system. Another well known apparatus is the apparatus for transmitting a vertical drive

signal and a horizontal drive signal, and driving the television camera and its deflection/timing circuits by the transmitted vertical drive signals and the horizontal drive signals.

5 In any of the above known devices of the type under discussion, as the transmitted synchronizing signal itself is a train of pulses, which can be easily influenced by noise, the transmission of a synchronizing signal requires the use of an exclusive coaxial cable with its high 10 shielding effect, or exclusive fiber optics cable which makes it costly and complex, particularly for the systems with a plurality of television cameras.

Another known method and apparatus for synchronizing a plurality of television cameras, is a method and apparatus 15 for transmitting an external synchronizing signal from an external synchronizing generator to the television cameras by injecting the external synchronizing signal into the video signal transmission line and locking an internal synchronizing signal generator of the television camera by 20 means of the transmitted external synchronizing signal. Such an apparatus is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,603,352 the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Some fiber optic transmission lines used for 25 propagating video signals are also used for propagating two way signals, such as external synchronizing signals or

digital control signals in the reverse direction to the video propagation; however, the devices for operating such fiber optics transmission lines require exclusive input and output terminals at both ends of the fiber optic line for the applied external sync or the control signals, which are in addition to the video input and output terminals at both ends of the fiber optic transmission line. Therefore the method and apparatuses for feeding external synchronizing and control signal via the video coaxial cables referred to above cannot be applied to such fiber optics transmission lines.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide for connecting a transmission line such as coaxial cable or twisted pair wires, carrying two way signals, an information signal from a transmitter in one direction and external synchronizing signals and/or control signals to the transmitter in the opposite direction, with a fiber transmitter of a fiber optic line through common terminals for the two way signals.

The term "fiber optic line" used throughout the application means a single fiber optic cable connected to two way fiber optic transceiver at its both ends; of which the one transceiver that connects and interfaces the fiber optic cable with a transmitter is termed "fiber optic transmitter" and the other transceiver that connects and

interfaces the fiber optic cable with a receiver is termed "fiber optic receiver" throughout the application.

Another object of the present invention is to provide for connecting a transmission line such as coaxial cable or 5 twisted pair wires, carrying two way signals, an external synchronizing signal and/or control signals from a receiver-controller in one direction and information signals to the receiver-controller in the opposite direction, with fiber receiver of a fiber optic line through a common terminal for 10 the two way signals.

Further object of the present invention is to insert and connect a fiber optic line in between two sections of a transmission line, such as coaxial cable or twisted pair wires; one section the transmission line is connected to a 15 transmitter and the other to a receiver-controller with both sections of the transmission line carrying two way signals, information signals to the receiver in one direction and external synchronizing signals and/or a control signal to the transmitter in the opposite direction, whereby each end 20 of the fiber optic line is connected to one transmission line through common terminals for the two way signals.

According to the present invention when a fiber optic line is introduced in and connected to an information transmission line such as a coaxial cable or twisted pair wires, it will propagate the two way signals in the same 25 manner as the coaxial cable or the twisted pair wires do.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide for directly connecting a fiber optic cable to a transmitter at one end of the cable and to a receiver-controller at the other end, for propagating two way signals, and information signal from the transmitter to the receiver-controller and external synchronizing signals, and/or control signals from the receiver-controller to the transmitter.

A method for connecting fiber optic lines to an information transmission line carrying two way signals comprises the steps of separating the external synchronizing signals and/or the control signal from the combined signals present at the output connector of the fiber receiver on the basis of signal levels and/or signal timing and re-inject the separated signals to a driver circuit that feeds optical signals into the fiber optic connector of the fiber optic receiver. This is followed by the steps of retrieving the external synchronizing and/or the control signals from the fiber optic connector of the fiber transmitter and re-injecting the retrieved external synchronizing signals and/or control signals into the input connector of the fiber transmitter, thereby completing the transfer of the external synchronizing and/or control signals from the fiber optic receiver output connector to the fiber transmitter input connector.

The apparatus of the present invention comprises one or more video signal generating means, such as television cameras, respectively connected to one or more information transmission lines or fiber optic lines for feeding the video signal to one or more receiving means. Each video signal generating means includes an internal synchronizing signal generation circuit for generating an internal synchronizing signal synchronized with the external synchronizing signal.

According to the present invention, the external synchronizing signal is a pulse signal having a voltage level higher than the maximum voltage level or lower than the minimum voltage level of the video signal. The receiving means includes a circuit for injecting the external synchronizing signal into the information transmission line or the fiber optic line connected to the video signal generating means. Each video signal generating means further includes a level comparator circuit for extracting the external synchronizing signal by comparing the signal level of the external synchronizing pulse signal with a reference signal having a predetermined voltage and feeds the extracted external synchronizing signal to the internal synchronizing signal generation circuit. Since the external synchronizing pulse is generated during the blanking period of the video signal, the external synchronizing signal can be transmitted commonly through

the same transmission line used for transmitting the video signal without affecting the video signal.

In an embodiment, each video generating means may preferably include a circuit for removing the external synchronizing signal from the output signal fed through the corresponding information transmission lines or the fiber optic lines to the receiving means. Thereby, since the external synchronizing signal can be removed from the video signal transmitted through the information transmission lines or the fiber optic line, the external synchronizing signal does not influence the receiving means input circuits and the video signal can be flawlessly received.

In an embodiment, each video signal generating means may further include an identification code signal generation circuit for removing the external synchronizing signal from the output signal fed through the corresponding information transmission lines or the fiber optic lines to the receiving means. Thereby, since the external synchronizing signal can be removed from the video signal transmitted through the information transmission lines or the fiber optic, line, the external synchronizing signal does not influence the receiving means input circuits and the video signal can be flawlessly received.

In an embodiment, each video signal generating means may further include an identification code signal generation circuit for generating an identification code signal

corresponding to an identification number, respectively allotted to each video signal generating means, for injecting the identification code signal into a video signal fed to the receiving means.

5 The receiving means further includes an identification code signal processing means for extracting the identification code signal from the received signal. The identification code signal processing means preferably includes a memory for storing identification data for each allotted code number, an extraction circuit for extracting the identification code signal from the received signal and generating a decoded signal by decoding the extracted identification code signal, and a controller for retrieving the identification data of the decoded signal from the 10 memory for superimposing the retrieved identification data onto the video signal. Thereby, the received video signal can be identified by the identification code signal processing means for verification of the video generating means which is transmitting the video signal, thereby 15 providing the basis for error free controlling of the video generating means.

20 The apparatus of the present invention may further comprise a control means for generating and feeding a control signal combining coded control commands with the 25 identification code signal, decoded and fed by the extraction circuit, for controlling the video signal

generating means. The coded control command is fed to the video signal generating means for operating the video signal generating means only when the identification code signal, combined into the control signal, corresponds to the 5 identification number allotted to the video signal generating means being controlled. Thereby, only a specific video signal generating means, having its identification code extracted and decoded by the control means during the controlling process, can have its allotted identification 10 number coincide with the identification code extracted from the control signal fed from the control means. Therefore, any specific video signal generating means can be verifiable and accurately controlled.

15 The control signal is injected into the information transmission line for the fiber optic line connecting the video signal generating means with the receiving means during the vertical blanking period of the video signal, and the video signal generating means may further include a control signal processing means for extracting the control 20 signal from the information transmission line or the fiber optic line and for feeding the extracted control signal only when the identification code signal, which is combined into the control signal, corresponds to the identification code allotted to it. Since the control signals are transmitted 25 during the blanking period of the video signal they can be transmitted to the video signal generating means from the

receiving means through a common transmission line without disturbing the video signal.

Each video signal generating means preferably further includes a signal mixing means for generating a mixed signal composed of a video signal and an audio signal by injecting the audio signal into the video signal and feeding the mixed signal to a corresponding information transmission line or fiber optic line. Thereby, both the mixed video signal and the audio signal can be transmitted between the video generating means and the receiving means through a common information transmission line or fiber optic line.

The receiving means may further include an audio signal retrieving means for outputting an audio signal by retrieving the audio from the mixed signal.

The receiving means may further include a control signal driver for feeding the control signal to any of information transmission lines or fiber optic lines in the reverse direction to the propagation direction of the video signal. Each video generating means preferably further includes a control signal extractor for extracting the control signal from the information transmission line or fiber optic line and for feeding the extracted control signal to a driver circuit of the video generating means for operating peripherals such as remote positioning devices for the camera or its lens.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing objects and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments of the invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGS. 1A-1E show block diagrams of an apparatus for connecting fiber optic lines of the preferred embodiments of the present invention;

FIGS. 2A-2C show waveforms of a signal transmitted by the apparatus of FIG. 1A-1E;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an electric circuit showing a receiving apparatus of the preferred embodiment of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3A is a modified block diagram of the electric circuit of FIG. 3 for providing a connector to connect fiber optic cable to a receiving apparatus of the preferred embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an electric circuit showing a television camera of a preferred embodiment of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4A is a block diagram of the modified electric circuit of FIG. 4 for providing a connector to connect a fiber optic cable to a transmitting apparatus of the preferred embodiment;

FIGS. 5A-5E show waveforms of an identification code signal and its clipping circuits;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a code extraction circuit of the receiving apparatus shown in FIG. 3 and of the television camera shown in FIG. 4;

5 FIG. 6A is a block diagram of a code extraction circuit of a preferred embodiment of the fiber receiver shown in FIG. 8;

FIG. 6B is a block diagram of a code extraction circuit of the television camera shown in FIG. 4A and of the preferred embodiment of a fiber transmitter shown in FIG. 7;

10 FIG. 7 is a block diagram of the fiber transmitter for connecting the fiber optic cable to an information transmission line of a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

15 FIG. 8 is a block diagram of the fiber receiver for connecting the fiber optic cable to an information transmission line of a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

20 FIG. 9 is a block diagram of an electric circuit showing a receiving apparatus with a selector as another preferred embodiment of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1E.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1A shows an apparatus for connecting fiber optic lines in an information transmission system 1 as a preferred embodiment when applying the present invention to a closed circuit television system such as a monitoring system. An

information signal in a close circuit television system includes a video signal and in the following description the video signal may be a composite video signal or a digital video signal or multiplexed video and audio signals, or multiplexed video and data signals, or multiplexed video, audio and data signals.

Referring to FIG. 1A, the information transmission system 1 comprises a television camera 10 for transmitting video signals through a transmission line 16T to a fiber transmitter 6 for outputting through a fiber optic cable 15 the video signal to a receiver-controller 11. The receiver-controller 11 receives the video signals and generates external synchronizing signals and/or control signals to externally synchronize and/or control the television camera 10 and feeds the signals through the fiber optic cable 15 to the fiber transmitter 6, for injecting the external synchronizing signals and/or the control signals into the transmission line 16T for externally synchronizing and/or controlling the television camera 10.

As shown in FIG 1A the two connectors, are provided in 17 is connected to the fiber optic cable 15 and 18 which connected the transmission line 16T are common connectors for the two way signals propagated via the fiber optic cable 15 and via the transmission line 16T. Similarly, shown in FIG 1B the two connectors, 27 which connects the fiber optic cable 15 and 28 which connects the transmission line 16R,

are common connectors for the two way signals; the video signals fed to the receiver-controller 9 in one direction and external synchronizing and/or control signals to the television camera in the opposite direction.

5 Referring to FIG. 1B the information transmission system comprises a television camera 12 for transmitting video signals through a fiber optic cable 15 to a fiber receiver 8 for outputting through a transmission line 16R the video signal to a receiver-controller 9. The receiver-controller 9 receives the video signals and generates 10 external synchronizing signals and/or control signals to externally synchronize and/or control the television camera 12 and feeds the signals through the transmission line 16R to the fiber receiver 8, for injecting the external 15 synchronizing signals and/or the control signals into the fiber optic cable 15 for feeding the external synchronizing signals and/or the control signals to the television camera 12.

The receiver-controller 11 of FIG. 1A connects directly 20 to fiber optic cable 15 through its fiber optic connector 27, while the television camera 12 of FIG. 1B connects to fiber optic 15 through its fiber optic connector 17. The receiver-controller 11 comprises a built-in fiber optic receiver; similarly the television camera 12 comprises a 25 built-in fiber transmitter; therefore no separate fiber optic receiver is needed for the information transmission

system 1 of FIG. 1A and no separate fiber transmitter is needed for the information transmission system 2 of FIG. 2B.

FIG. 1C shows an information transmission system 3 as another preferred embodiment wherein both the fiber receiver 8 and the fiber transmitter 6 which are interconnected by fiber optic cable 15 are introduced between two sections of a transmission line 16R and 16T. Therefore, both the television camera 10 and the receiver-controller 9 employ transmission line connectors 16, such as a well known coaxial cable connectors or terminals used for connecting twisted pair transmission line.

FIG. 1D shows an information transmission system 4 wherein both the television camera 12 and the receiver controller 11 comprise a fiber transmitter and a fiber receiver, respectively, and are therefore directly connected by a fiber optic cable 15 for the two way signal propagation, the camera through its fiber optic connector 17 and the receiver controller through its fiber optic connector 18.

FIG. 1E shows an information transmission system 5 as another preferred embodiment of the present invention, in which a plurality of television cameras 10 and 12 are connected to a receiver-controller and selector 90 via a plurality of transmission lines 16R or fiber optic cables 15. Each of the transmission lines or fiber optic lines connecting the multiple cameras 10 and 12 to the receiver-

controller and selector 90 propagates the two way signals exactly the same way as the information transmission systems 1, 2, 3 or 4 of FIGS. 1A-1D propagate the two way signals.

FIG. 3 shows a receiver-controller 9 incorporating a
5 known external synchronizing generator 44 that feeds
external synchronizing pulses P1 to a buffer circuit 36 for
injecting the synchronizing pulses P1 to the video line 16L
and to the connector 16.

The frequency of the external synchronizing signal P1
10 is related to the vertical frequency of the video signal
generated by the television camera 10 or 12, preferably
having frame or field scanning frequency. For instance, in
the case of an NTSC system, the frame frequency is 30 Hz,
and the field frequency is 60 Hz. In such case, the
15 frequency of the external synchronizing pulse P1 is either
frame frequency of 30 Hz or a field frequency of 60 Hz.

As shown in FIG. 2(A), the time the external
synchronizing signal P1 is generated adjoining the vertical
synchronizing pulse, occurs during the vertical blanking
20 period of the video signal transmitted from the television
camera 10 or 12. Thereby, the external synchronizing signal
P1 can be propagated to the television camera 10 or 12
through the common transmission line 16R which carries the
video signal without affecting the video signal. The
25 voltage level of the external synchronizing signal P1 is
preferably made higher than the white level Vw of the video

signal. However, the voltage level of the external synchronizing signal P1 may be lower than the minimum level of the video signal.

In the following description, a frame external synchronizing pulse having a voltage level higher than the white level of the video signal, in particular, a frame external synchronizing pulse corresponding to the phase of a second field is used as the external synchronizing signal P1.

In the illustrated embodiment, each television camera 10 or 12 is a television camera operated in synchronization with the external synchronizing signal P1. For such a television camera, a well known television camera may be used synchronized with an external synchronizing signal having a voltage level higher than the level, (or lower than the level) of the video signal, as disclosed in the aforementioned U.S. Patent No. 4,603,352.

Each of the television cameras 10 or 12 is allotted an identification number for generating respectively an identification code made of numbers of characters such as 1, 2, 3 ... n, for injecting the identification code into the video signal during the vertical blanking period.

Each of the television cameras 10 or 12 includes a circuit for generating code signals corresponding to the identification code, and a circuit for generating a composite signal wherein the code signals are injected into

the video signal. Such an apparatus is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,943,864, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference; therefore, each of the information signals received by the receiver controller 9, 5 11 or 90 may incorporate an identification code.

As also shown in FIG. 3, the external synchronizing generator 44 of the receiver 9 feeds a pulse signal P2 shown in FIG. 2(B) synchronized with the external synchronizing signal P1 fed from same external synchronizing signal generator 44. While the buffer 36 for injecting the external synchronizing signal receives and injects the pulse signal P1 into the video signal transmission line 16L, the pulse P2 is fed to a synchronizing pulse clipping circuit 38 for clipping synchronizing pulse P1 from a signal fed from 10 the video signal transmission line 16L which passes through the synchronizing pulse clipping circuit 38, and a video signal containing no synchronizing pulse P1 is fed to the output connector 41.

The synchronizing pulse clipping circuit 38 is fed with 20 the signal shown in FIG. 2(A) from the video signal transmission line 16L and the timing signal P2 shown in FIG. 2(B) from the external synchronizing generator 44. The signal P2 activates the clipping circuit for the duration of P2, thereby the clipping circuit 38 clips the entire signal portion of the signal fed to its input terminal above the 25 black level V_b of the video signal during the period of

signal P2. Since the duration of P2 covers the period of the external synchronizing pulse P1 the external synchronizing signal P1 is removed by the clipping circuit 38 from the composite video signal fed to the output 5 connector 41 as shown in FIG. 2(C).

Accordingly, even though the external synchronizing signal P1 is present in the video signal fed from the television camera 10 or 12 through the transmission line 16L it is removed by the clipping circuit 38; therefore, the 10 external synchronizing signal P1 injected into the video signal transmission line 16L will synchronize the television camera 10 or 12 and will not cause any receiving error by display apparatuses connected to output connector 41.

When the television camera 10 or 12 generates an audio 15 signal, the signal is multiplexed with the video signal inside the television camera 10 or 12 and the multiplexed signal is fed to the fiber transmitter 6 through the transmission line 16T; the fiber transmitter 6 feeds the multiplexed video signal through the fiber optic cable 15 to 20 a fiber receiver 8 which feeds the multiplexed signal to a receiver-controller 9, 11 or 90 through transmission line 16R. The mixed video signal and the audio signal are then fed from the output signal of the clipping circuit 38 to the audio decoder 42 which outputs decodes audio signals through 25 the audio output connector or terminal 42A.

The receiver-controller 9 also includes a control generator 49 for generating a control signal for controlling the corresponding television camera 10 or 12. The control generator 49 includes a synchronizing separator circuit 46 for separating the horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals H and V from the video signal propagated through the video line 16L. Also included is a control signal generator circuit 50 for outputting a control signal for operating the corresponding television camera 10 or 12 during a predetermined timing on the basis of the separated synchronizing signals H and V. A counter 52 is provided for counting the number of horizontal scanning lines fed from the sync separator 46 during each frame or field. The control signal generator 49 also includes a gate circuit 54 for generating a gate signal when the counted value of the counter 52 is a predetermined value, and a buffer 56 controlled by the gate signal for injecting the control signal fed from the control signal generator circuit 50 into the video line 16L.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the injector circuit may include a mixer circuit wherein the code signals are mixed and injected into the composite video signal. Such a mixer circuit is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,989,085, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, or it can be an injection circuit

disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,335,014 the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The control command fed through the video line 16L for propagating a control command code to the cameras 10 or 12 5 may include a control code for switching a power supply on-off, wiper on-off, tilting up-down, panning left-right and zooming tele-wide or the like, or a start or stop command of the transmission of a video signal. The control signal may combine the control code corresponding to the control 10 command and the identification code respectively allotted to each of the television cameras 10 or 12. In addition, the control signal is injected into the video line 16L by the buffer circuit 56 of FIG. 3 at a predetermined time within the vertical blanking period. The injection timing of the 15 control signal into the video line 16L is different from the injection timing of the external synchronizing signal into the video line 16L.

It is apparent from the above description that both the external synchronizing signal and the control signal can be 20 transmitted from the receiver 9 to the television camera through the transmission line 16R.

As shown in FIG. 4, each television camera 1 includes a reference source 60 which feeds a reference signal or voltage to the voltage comparator 62 for separating the 25 external sync pulse by comparing the voltage level of the external synchronizing signal P1 transmitted from the

transmitting apparatus through the transmission line 16T with the reference signal or voltage and generating a pulse signal P3 when P1 level is same or larger than the reference signal or voltage. An internal synchronizing signal

5 generation circuit 64 generates internal synchronizing signals H and V synchronized with the pulse signal P3 fed from the voltage comparator 62; a video signal generation circuit 66 generates a video signal synchronized with the internal synchronizing signals H and V for feeding the
10 synchronized video signal to the transmission line 16T; an audio signal generation circuit 68 generates an audio signal along with the video signal and an audio signal injection circuit 70 injects the audio signal into the video line 16L for mixing the audio signal into the video signal.

15 As also shown in FIG. 4, each television camera 10 may include an identification code setting circuit 72 for generating an identification code respectively allotted to the television camera 10 at a predetermined time within the vertical blanking period of the composite video signal on
20 the basis of the internal synchronizing signals H and V and an identification code injection circuit 74 for injecting the identification code fed from the setting circuit 72 into the video line 16L.

The timing the identification code is injected into the
25 transmission line 16T by the injection circuit 74 is different from the timing the control signal is injected

into the transmission line 16R by the receiver-controller 9 shown in FIG. 3. The control signal is injected into the transmission line 16R by the receiver controller 9 during one or more predetermined horizontal scanning lines during 5 the vertical blanking period of the composite video signal, while the identification code is injected into the transmission line 16T by the television camera 10 during one or more predetermined different horizontal scanning lines during same or another vertical blanking period of the 10 composite video signal.

Identification code signals are shown in FIGS. 5A-5C. The identification code signal is a binary code or a bar code signal having two or more levels composed of a high level or white, which is the maximum or highest level of the 15 picture signal in the video signals, a low level or black, which is the lowest level of the picture signal, and a median level or gray, which is the medium level of a picture signal in the video signal generated by the television cameras 10 as shown in FIG. 5A; the identification code may 20 be a combination of pulse signal levels and varying pulse widths as shown in FIG. 5B.

Alternatively, the identification code signal may be either a sine-wave signal or a pulse signal having a frequency corresponding to the identification code, the 25 sine-wave, or the pulse signal is generated during one or

more horizontal scanning periods as shown in FIG. 6C, preferably, during the vertical blanking period.

The control signal generator 50 shown in FIG. 3 generates the control code signals in electronic shaped signals similar to the identification code signal shown in FIG. 5 (A-C). However, different shaped electrical signals may be applied to the control code signal and the identification code signal, similarly, the identification code incorporated in the control signal does not have to be identical to the identification code generated by the identification setting circuit 72 of the television camera shown in FIG. 4. Any code commensurating with the allotted identification to each television camera can be used instead of an identical identification code.

10 The control signal generator 50 shown in FIG. 3 may generate well known telephone dial tones or it may consist of an audio compression circuit for compressing real time audio of one or more field durations into one or more horizontal periods.

15 The control signal generator 50 shown in FIG. 3, an identification code comparing circuit 78 for comparing the extracted identification code with an identification code fed from the setting circuit 72 for feeding a match signal

20 The television camera 10 of FIG. 4 may further include a control code extraction circuit 76 for extracting a control code and an identification code generated by the control signal generator circuit 50 shown in FIG. 3, an identification code comparing circuit 78 for comparing the extracted identification code with an identification code fed from the setting circuit 72 for feeding a match signal

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to a decoder 80 when both codes correspond to each other, and decoder 80 for decoding the control code fed from the control code extraction circuit 76 and generating control commands corresponding to the decoded control code only when
5 the decoder 80 is fed with the match signal from the identification code comparator 78.

The code extraction circuit 76 shown in detail in FIG. 6 incorporates a counter 84 for counting the number of horizontal synchronizing pulses during every field or frame
10 of the video signal, a gate circuit 86 connected to the output of the counter 84 for outputting the video signal fed from video line 16L when the counted value of the counter 84 is a predetermined value, a level sensor 80 for sensing a signal level or for detecting the envelope of the signal fed
15 from the gate circuit 88 to reproduce and output the code signal extracted from the video signal fed from the transmission line 16T.

The code comparing circuit 78 generates a match signal when the extracted code fed from the extraction circuit 76 corresponds to or commensurate with the code set in the
20 setting circuit 72, and generates a mismatch signal when the extracted code fed from the extraction circuit 76 does not correspond or commensurate with the code set in the setting circuit 72.

25 When using a control code and an identification code having a signal waveform shown in FIG. 5C the level sensor

circuit 88 of FIG. 6A-6C may incorporate a frequency or pulse counter for counting the frequency or the number of pulses, fed from the gate circuit 86. If the generated control signal is a dial tone signal or a compressed audio 5 signal the level sensor circuit 88 may further include a well known dial tone decoder or a well known audio decompression circuit.

The decoder 80 of FIG. 4 feeds the different control commands to different drivers (not shown) for operating the 10 television camera 10 by commanding the power supply on-off, wiper on-off, tilting up-down, panning left-right, zooming tele-wide, focus near-far, iris open-close or the like, or commanding the start of the stop of the transmission of a video signal.

15 The code setting circuit 72 can be fed with data from switches and sensors which form part of a peripheral status data such as pan-tilt head positioning, for generating codes pertaining to the executions of a control commands, or for generating diagnostic codes pertaining to the actual state 20 of any peripheral or to any of the cameras internal circuits operational status. The codes for confirming control command execution, status, or diagnostic codes are injected into the video line 16L through the code inserter 74 at a predetermined horizontal line or lines within the vertical 25 blanking period.

The timing of injection of the control commands execution codes, status and diagnostic codes into the video line 16L is different from the timing of the identification code injection and different from the injection timing of 5 the external synchronizing signal or the control signals generated by the receiver-controller 9 of FIG. 4. For example, the synchronizing signal is injected at the beginning of the first horizontal line of the vertical blanking period; the identification code is injected during 10 the horizontal line twelve of the vertical blanking period, while the control signal is injected during the horizontal lines fourteen and fifteen and the estatus-diagnostic code during the horizontal line seventeen, all within the vertical blanking period.

15 It has been apparent from the above description that a multiplex signal composed of the video and audio signals, along with status and/or diagnostic code signals and the identification code respectively allotted to each television camera 10 or 12 can be transmitted from the television 20 camera 10 toward the receiver-controller 9 through the video signal transmission line 16T.

As shown in FIG. 7 the fiber optic transmitter 6 comprises a well known light emitting diode or a laser 33, a photo transistor or pin diode 31 and a filter 30 optically 25 connected to the fiber optic connector 17 that employs well known photo splitting device such as a prism, or a fiber

optic cable splitter directing the optical path to the light emitting diode 33 and to the pin diode 31, thereby providing well known two way optical signal propagation through the fiber optic connector 17. The light emitting diode 33 5 generates a light signal having a wave length different from the receiving wave length of the pin diode; for example the light emitting diode may generate a light signal having a wave length of 1300nm or 1550nm and the pin diode receiving wave length may be 850nm.

10 The filter 30 is an optical filter having an optical pass wave length commensurate with the wave length of the pin diode 31, thereby ensuring that only control and external synchronizing signals being propagated from the receiver-controller 9, 11 or 90 reach the pin diode 31 and 15 that no stray or return video signals will interfere with the external synchronizing and/or the control signals.

Alternatively, it is possible to employ two uni-directional fiber optic cables through two separate fiber optic connectors 17, wherein one connector 17 directly 20 receives the optical signal from the light emitting diode 33 and the other fiber optic connector 17 feeds the optical signal directly to the pin diode 31. In such an arrangement the optical splitting device and the filter 30 are unnecessary and both signal's wavelength can be identical.

25 The video signal fed through the transmission line 16Y via connector 18 passes through a control signal clipper 35

and through the external synchronizing signal clipper 25 to a video driver 34 that feeds video drive signals to the light emitting diode 33.

The video driver 34 is a well known fiber optic video driver, processing analog video drive signals or converting the video signals into amplitude modulated (AM) or frequency modulated (FM) video drive signal to drive the light emitting diode 33. However, as the level of the external synchronizing signal combined with the video signal and propagated through the transmission lines 16R and 16T is higher than the level of the video signals, the inclusion of the external synchronizing signal at the input of the video driver 34 will cause an analog signal driving error, or it may cause a frequency modulation error if the video driver 34 employs a frequency modulator, thereby over drive or distort the optical signal. Therefore it is preferable to remove the external synchronizing signal from the video signals fed to the video driver 34. As will be explained later it is also preferable to remove the external synchronizing signals to prevent a closed signal loop.

Shown in FIG. 8 is a fiber optic receiver 8 comprising of a well known light emitting diode or laser 23, a photo transistor or pin diode 21 and a filter 20 optically connected to the fiber optic connector 15 that employs a well known photo splitting device such as a prism or a fiber optic cable splitter, directing the optical path to the

light emitting diode 23? and to the pin diode 21, thereby providing well known two way optical signal propagation through the fiber optic connector 15. The light emitting diode 23 generates a light signal having a wave length different from the receiving wave length of the pin diode; for example the light emitting diode may generate light signal having a wave length of 850nm and the pin diode receiving wave length may be 1300nm or 1550nm.

The filter 20 is an optical filter having an optical pass wave length commensurate with the wave length of the pin diode 21, thereby ensuring that only video signals being propagated from the television camera 10 or 12 reach the pin diode 21 and that no stray or return of external synchronizing and/or control signals will interfere with the video signals.

Alternatively as explained above, it is possible to employ two uni-directional fiber optic cables through two separate fiber optic connectors 15, wherein one connector 15 feeds the optical signal directly to pin diode 21 and the other fiber optic connector 15 receives the optical signal directly from the light emitting diode 23. In such an arrangement the optical splitting device and the filter 20 are unnecessary and both signal's wavelength can be identical.

Since the detailed description of the preferred embodiment details two way optical signal propagation over a

single fiber optic cable and as the wavelength of the two way signals must be reciprocal in the fiber transmitter and the fiber receiver, in the following description a wavelength of 1300nm is used for the external synchronizing and/or control signals.

5 Therefore, in the following description the light emitting diode 33, the filter 20 and the pin diode 21 are all having an optical signal wave length of 1300nm and the light emitting diode 23, filter 30 and pin diode 31 are all 10 having optical signal wave length of 850nm.

10 The control and external synchronizing signal driver 24 of FIG. 8 is a well known fiber optic signal driver, which processes pulse or analog drive signals or converts the signals into amplitude modulated (AM) or frequency modulated 15 (FM) drive signals for driving the light emitting diode 23.

As the fiber transmitter 6 and fiber receiver 8 are connected via the fiber optic cable 15 and as the wave length of the optical signal generated by the light emitting diode 23 is 850nm, reciprocating the transmitter 6 of FIG. 20 7, it is apparent that the external synchronizing and/or control signals emitted by the light emitting diode 23 will reach the pin diode 31 of FIG. 7.

Similarly, it is apparent that multiplexed video signals emitted by the light emitting diode 33, emitting the 25 signal wave length of 1300nm will reach the pin diode 21 of

FIG. 8 through the filter 20, thereby providing well known fiber optic two way signals propagation.

The input of the comparison circuit 62 of FIG. 8 is connected to the line 28L and applied with video signals mixed with external synchronizing signals present on the transmission line 16R for separating the external synchronizing signals from the video signals by comparing the mixed signals with a predetermined reference signal or voltage 60, in a similar manner the comparator 62 of the television camera 10 is separating the external synchronizing signals.

Similarly, the control code extractor 76A will extract the control signals from the composite signals fed through line 28L. Referring to FIG. 6A the control code extractor is composed of a separator circuit 82 for separating the horizontal and the vertical synchronizing signals from the video signal, a counter 84 for counting the number of horizontal scanning lines for each field or frame, a gate circuit 86 for outputting the video signal only during a period when a counted value of the counter 84 is equal to a signal by sensing the level or the envelope of the output signal of the game circuit 86. The counter 84 also feeds a clipping pulse CP4 for activating the control signal clipper 35 of the fiber receiver 6 shown in FIG. 8.

As the timing incidence of the external synchronizing signal is different from the timing of the control signals,

the feeding of the separated external synchronizing signals and the control signal to the control and external synchronizing driver 24 will not interfere with each other.

Further, the external synchronizing signal level is
5 larger than the video signal level while the maximum level
of the control signal is the white signal level of the video
signal which is the highest level of the video signal as
shown in FIG. 5A. Therefore the control and external
synchronizing driver 24 can feed the two different levels of
10 signals to the light emitting diode 23 for emitting two
different distinct optical signals which are also separated
by time incidence.

As the control signal will be re-injected at the fiber
transmitter 6 into the video line it is necessary to remove
15 the re-injected control signal from the video line 28L in
order to prevent a closed signal loop and possible
oscillation when feeding the received video signals
incorporating re-injected control signals back to the input
of the control code extractor 76A.

20 The game circuit 86 of the control code extractor 76A
shown in FIG. 6A feeds a clipping pulse CP4 for the duration
the gate circuit 86 outputs the composite signal to the
level sensor 88, which is the specific predetermined
horizontal period for the control signals to be injected by
25 the receiver-controller 9 or 90. The clipping pulse CP4
shown in FIG. 5D is fed to and activates the control signal

clipper 35 of FIG. 8 for the duration of CP4, thereby clipping and removing the entire control signals that are to be re-injected at the fiber transmitter 6. Shown in FIG. 5D is the clipping pulse CP4 having a duration of one horizontal scanning period, and FIG. 5E showing the clipped signal at the output of the control signal clipper 35. However, the predetermined duration of the clipping pulse CP4 can be a duration of several horizontal periods when the control signals generated by the receiver controller 9, 11 or 90 are injected into the video signal during the corresponding several horizontal periods.

As shown in FIG. 7 the fiber transmitter 6 also comprises control signal clipper 35 and external synchronizing signal clipper 25 for removing the control and the external synchronizing signals from the input of the video driver 34 and from the light emitting diode 33, thereby removing the control signals and/or external synchronizing signals from the emitted optical signals and preventing closed signal loops. Accordingly, the optical signals reaching the fiber optic receiver 8 via fiber optic cable 15 do not contain external sync or control signal components. Regardless it is preferable to introduce control signal and external synchronizing signal clipping circuits along each and every element that interfaces the fiber optic line and the transmission line, including the receiver-controller and the television camera, thereby

ensuring that no residual closed signal loops or signal errors may occur in any setup of combining a fiber optic line and a transmission line.

Referring to the fiber receiver 8 of FIG. 8, the
5 external synchronizing clipper 25 shown is similar to the external synchronizing clipping circuit 38 of the receiver-
controller 9 shown in FIG. 3 and it removes any residual
external synchronizing signals from the output connector 18.

The optical signal reaching the well known pin diode 21
10 converts the optical signals into electrical signals and
feeds the electrical signals to the input of the video
processor 22. The video processor 22 may employ an analog
amplifiers when the optical signals fed through the fiber
optic cable 15 are analog signals or amplitude modulated
15 signals, or it may employ an FM demodulator circuit when the
optical signals fed through the fiber optic cable 15 are
frequency modulated (FM) signals.

The video processor 22 further compromises well known
small signal transimpedance amplifiers and a well known
20 output video amplifier to output video signals. The output
video signal is fed through the external synchronizing
clipper 25 and through the control signal clipper 35 to the
video output connector 28.

It is apparent from the above description that the
25 fiber receiver 8 of FIG. 8 can extract external
synchronizing and control signals from the signals present

at its output connector 28 and re-inject the extracted signals into the fiber optic connector 27 for propagating the external synchronizing signal and/or the control signals in the reverse direction to the propagation of the video signals without disturbing the video signals, thereby providing for the connection of a fiber optic line to a transmission line through common connectors carrying two way signals.

Similarly it is apparent from the above description that the fiber transmitter 6 of FIG. 7 can extract the external synchronizing and/or the control signals propagated by the fiber optic cable 15 through its output connector 17 and re-inject the extracted signals into the input connector 18 in reverse direction to the propagation of the video signals without disturbing the video signals, thereby providing for the connection of a fiber optic line to a transmission line through common connectors carrying two way signals.

Shown in FIG. 3A is a receiver-controller 11 adapted to process optical video signals through its optical connector 27, filter 20 and pin diode 21 and through video processor 22, similarly to the way the fiber receiver 8 is processing the optical video signal. The external synchronizing and/or control signals are directly fed from the external synchronizing generator 44 and from the control signal gate 54 to the control and external synchronizing driver 24,

making the use of fiber receiver 8 of FIG. 8 redundant. It is apparent however, that fiber transmitter 6 can be connected directly through fiber optic cable 1 to the receiver 11 and provide the means for re-injecting the external synchronizing and/or control signals into the transmission line 16T connecting the fiber transmitter 6 and the television camera 10.

The receiver 9 of FIG. 3, the receiver 11 of FIG. 3A and the receiver 90 of FIG. 9 include a control signal clipping circuit 57 for clipping any residual control signals from the video signal, thereby ensuring that no residual control signals due to closed signal loops will re-enter the input of the identification code extractor which otherwise may cause code extraction errors. The control signal clipping circuit 57 is activated by the output of the sync counter 52 and operates the same way as the control signal clipper 35 of FIG. 8.

Shown in FIG. 9 is a receiver 90 comprising a selector switch 91 for selectively connecting plurality of television cameras 10 or 12. When plurality of television cameras 10 or 12 are selectively connected to a receiver-controller 90 via the selector switch 91 it is preferable to have all the internal synchronizing generators 64 shown in FIG. 4 and 4A of the plurality of the television cameras 10 or 12 externally synchronized and locked to each other, thereby preventing disturbances during or immediately after the

selection or the switch-over from one television camera to another.

The external synchronizing signal generator 44 feeds such external synchronizing signals to the transmission line 5 16R via buffer 36 and connector 16 and to the fiber optic cables via buffer 36A, and the control and external synchronizing drivers 24, the same way as the receiver-controllers 9 and 11 shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 3A inject external synchronizing signals into the individual 10 transmission line or fiber optic cable, respectively.

The control signals generated by the control generator 49 of FIG. 9 are either injected into the transmission line 16L by the control signal injection or buffer 56, the same 15 way the buffer 56 of the receiver-controller 9 shown in FIG. 3 injects the control signals, or the control signal is fed directly from the gate 54 to the control and external synchronizing signal drivers 24 in the same way as the gate 54 of the receiver-controller 11 of FIG. 3A feeds the control signals.

20 The switch 91 shown in FIG. 9 is a single pole rotary switch however the switch may be any type of electrical switch, such as analog IFC switch or matrix IC switch or any other electrical or mechanical switch or combination of switches. The output pole of the switch is connected 25 through line 16S to the control signal clipping circuit 57 and through the synchronizing pulse clipping circuit 38 to

output video signal with no control or external synchronizing signals residuals. If multiple transmission lines 16R are to be connected to the input poles of switch 91 of the receiver-controller 90 it is possible to connect 5 the output of the buffer 56 to line 16S instead of to multiple n poles and thereby feed the control signals selectively through the switch 91 to the television cameras.

It is also possible to feed control signals to multiple n poles of the switch 91 in parallel via multiple buffers

56. Each of the television cameras 10 or 12 can be 10 verifiably controlled by combining the identification of the selectively connected camera into the control code, which enables to feed control signals in parallel to all the television cameras 10 or 12 at once; yet only the television 15 camera selected through switch 91 will have its identification extracted by the code extractor 76 and mixed into the control command via the control signal generator 50 and therefore will be the only television camera 10 or 12 responding to the control signal when the mixed code is 20 compared with the television camera identification code by the code comparator circuit 78 of the television camera shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 4A.

The television camera 12 shown in FIG. 4A comprises a well known light emitting diode or a laser 33, a photo 25 transistor or pin diode 31 and a filter 30 optically connected to the fiber optic connector 17 that employs well

known photo splitting device, in a setup similar to the fiber transmitter 6. Similarly the video driver 34, the external synchronizing and control signals processor 32, the control code extractor 77, the comparator circuit 36 and the reference source 39 are all similar circuits to the circuit of the fiber transmitter 6 and are interconnected in the same way the circuits of the fiber transmitter 6 are connected.

The comparison circuit 36 feeds the control code extractor 77 of the embodiment of FIG. 4A and the embodiment of FIG. 7 with the external synchronizing pulse P3. As shown in FIG. 6B the pulse P3 is fed to the input of an incidence and duration timer 85, which generates a predetermined gating pulse having delay and duration to switch on the gate circuit 87 for a predetermined duration of a horizontal line or lines comensurating with the timing and the duration of generation of the control signals. The control signals are fed from line 32L through gate circuit 87 to the level sensor 88 in a setup similarly to that explained above in connection with the control code extractors 76 and 76A. Similarly the control code extractor 77 can be fed with H and V signals by connecting it to a video line through a synchronizing separator circuit 82, such as the one shown in FIG. 6A, instead of feeding the incidence and duration timer 85 with P3. The incidence and duration timer 85 also outputs a clipping pulse CP5 for

activating the control signal clipper 35 of the fiber transmitter 6 shown in FIG. 7.

It is apparent from the above descriptions that external synchronizing and/or control signals can be 5 propagated via fiber optic cable between receiver-controller 11 or 90 and a fiber optic transmitter 6 for injecting the external synchronizing and/or the control signals into a transmission line 16T connecting a television camera 10 and a fiber transmitter 6 for propagating two way signals, video 10 signals from the television camera 10 to the fiber transmitter 6 and external synchronizing and/or control signals to the television camera 10 via common connectors 16 and 18.

It is also apparent from the above descriptions that 15 fiber optic cable 15 carrying video signals generated by television camera 12 to the receiver-controller 9 or 90 via fiber receiver 8 will propagate to the television camera 12 external synchronizing and/or control signals injected by the receiver-controller 9 or 90 into the transmission line 20 16R connecting the receiver-controller 9 or 90 and the fiber receiver 8 via common connectors 16 and 28.

It will also become apparent that the television camera 12 can be connected to the receiver-controller 11 or 90 by the using single fiber optic cable 15 for propagating the 25 two way signals, the video signals to the receiver-controller 11 or 90 and the external synchronizing and/or

the control signals to the television camera 12, and wherein
the television camera will retrieve the external
synchronizing pulse via comparator circuit 36 and the
control code via control code extractor 77, while the
5 clipping circuits 57 and 38 of the receiver-controller 11 or
90 will remove any return signals residuals to prevent
closed signal loop and/or output signal level errors.

The external synchronizing and the control signal
clipping circuits throughout this detailed description are
10 referred to as individual circuits, however it is possible
to utilize one clipping circuit to clip both the external
synchronizing and the control signals by feeding two
clipping pulses such as CP5 and P3 of FIG. 7, or CP4 and P3
of FIG. 8, or the sync counter 52 output pulse and P2 of
15 FIG. 3, to a combined clipping circuit.

Referring again to FIGS. 3, 3A and 9, each of the
external synchronizing generators 44 of the receiver-
controllers 9, 11, 90 can be fed with master external
synchronizing signals to drive synchronously a plurality of
20 receiver-controllers 9, 11 or 90 in a monitoring system
employing multiple receivers.

Similarly, it is also possible to synchronously drive
the control and external synchronizing driver 24 of the
fiber receiver 8 shown in FIG. 8 by feeding it through
25 connector 44B with synchronizing drive signals outputted
from the receiver controller 9 of FIG. 3 via connector 44A,

instead of applying the extracted external synchronizing signal fed from the comparator circuit 62. It is also possible to feed a control signal outputted from the receiver-controller 9 of FIG. 3 via connector 49A to the control and external synchronizing driver 24 of FIG. 8 via connector 49B, instead of applying the output of the control code extractor 76A, thereby connecting television camera 10 to a fiber transmitter 6 via transmission line 16T and through common connectors 16 and 18, while the fiber receiver 8 connects to a receiver-controller 9 or 90 via individual connectors 44A, 49A and 16 of FIG. 8 and FIG. 9, to connectors 44B, 49B and 28 of the embodiment of FIG. 3, respectively.

The television camera 10 of FIG. 4 can be further connected to a fiber transmitter 6 of FIG. 7 via individual connectors 16, 18, 44C and 49C, feeding the video signal via transmission line 16T and through connectors 16 and 18 and the external synchronizing and/or the control signal via individual connectors 44C and 49C, respectively. Thereby providing for connecting the television camera 10 to a fiber optic line wherein the fiber receiver 8 of FIG. 8 processes two way signals, feeding video signals to transmission line 16R and extracting the external synchronizing and/or the control signal from the transmission line 16R~~X~~ for re-injecting the extracted signal into the fiber optic connector 27, and wherein the transmission line 16R is

connected via common connectors 16 and 28 to the receiver-controller 9 or 90.

When using the individual connectors between the television camera 10 of FIG. 4 and the fiber transmitter 6 of FIG. 7 the control signal injector 37 and the external synchronizing signal injector 32 shown are not needed; 5 similarly the control code extractor 76, the comparator circuit 62 and the reference signal source? 60 shown in FIG. 4 are not needed.

10 It is further apparent from above descriptions that all the systems shown in FIG. 1A - FIG. 1E can be interconnected and applied in part or in whole and that in any of the system configuration shown at least one section of the line can be connected via common connectors and, moreover, no 15 closed loop signals will affect the recombined two way signals.

The present invention can be applied not only to an information transmission line and fiber optic line apparatus used in a monitoring system but also to any other 20 information propagating apparatuses.

It should be understood, of course, that the foregoing disclosure relates to only a preferred embodiment of the invention and that it is intended to cover all changes and modifications of the example of the invention herein chosen 25 for the purpose of the disclosure, which modifications do not constitute departures from the spirit and scope of the

invention herein chosen for the purpose of the disclosure, which modifications do not constitute departures from the spirit and scope of the invention.

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